

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Nadine Bell called the December 15, 2014 Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Councilor Guy Drapeau. Also present: Guy Scaife (Director of Public Safety/Town Manager), Chief Mike Custer (RHPD), Deputy Chief Bill Keehner (RHPD), Chief Mike Garrahy (RHFD), Assistant Chief Dave Kromas (RHFD), Fire Marshal Rich Renstrom, Chief Joe Grayeb (RHVAA) and Deputy Chief Vivian Grayeb (RHVAA).

Those absent: Councilor Bill MacDonald.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Drapeau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

III. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public wished to speak at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update – 60 West Street

Chairwoman Bell said this Committee had agreed at its last meeting that they wouldn't keep this item on their agenda. There had just been a little administrative glitch now and she told Chief Custer if he had anything with regards to 60 West Street that he could bring it up under his departmental update.

V. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

A. Fire

Chief Garrahy said the RHFD had responded to 56 incidents in November with a year-to-date total of 510. A total of 475 training hours were recorded with a year-to-date total of a little less

than 5,000. A total of 153 administrative hours were recorded with a year-to-date total of 1,485. There were no firefighter injuries and the year-to-date total is 1. Staffing has remained the same and there are a total of 69 members, of which 66 are active presently.

For the Fire Marshal's Office, there were 23 building inspections in November with a year-to-date total of 240. There were 9 construction inspections with a year-to-date total of 171. There were 11 plan reviews with a year-to-date total of 178.

Three probationary firefighters have begun their certification process and three more are in the exam stage.

Truck 3's pump had to be rebuilt based on the results of the pump testing. A new water pump was put on Engine 4.

The RHFD received a notification of acceptance into the Recruitment Retention Grant through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. Councilor Drapeau asked if it is known as to how much they will be getting. Chief Garrahy said this is a support and not monetary grant. The RHFD will be part of a national database now and there is a webinar tomorrow night. Through GIS, the membership will be examined as to where the clusters are and they will be told what they can do to not have those. Councilor Drapeau thinks this is wonderful and he thinks the taxpayers would like to see what kind of support they are getting. He asked Chief Garrahy to let the Town Council know at their January 2015 meeting what they will be getting or what they are intending on getting. Chief Garrahy said absolutely and they will know more after the webinar tomorrow evening. Chairwoman Bell said this is great news.

Fire Marshal Renstrom referred to the MDC Hydrant Replacement Program, which is starting to get scaled way back because of the weather. This will be picking up again in early spring. Councilor Drapeau asked Fire Marshal if there are any hydrants that are in severe disrepair that he is worrying about and he said no. Councilor Drapeau asked if all of the fire hydrants will work and Fire Marshal Renstrom said they will.

Councilor Drapeau asked Chief Garrahy how the training facility is going and if he is going to use any funds to expand it. Councilor Drapeau also asked Chief Garrahy if he is thinking about offering the training facility to other Towns and charging them. Councilor Drapeau said he has walked that site and it is very impressive. Chief Garrahy said the training facility is continued being worked on (i.e. it will have gas fire props, fencing and some ladder guards). This is being offered to other Towns and they are charged for it with the money being payable to the General Fund. Councilor Drapeau strongly supports taking the funds from other Towns and earmarking them for the future expansion and maintenance of the training facility because that is a critical part of the RHFD's training. Chief Garrahy said this has been winterized for the year now but they can put out a notification in early spring through the Connecticut fire network to offer the training facility out.

Chairwoman Bell asked if there was anything with regards to the IT for the RHFD. Assistant Chief Kromas said he has spoken with Russ Ford (IT Director) and John Nowakowski (IT). Some equipment will be added to the fire apparatus in coordination with the RHPD's upgrade of

their dispatching system. This will enhance dispatch and RHFD's capabilities of knowing where they are going with their data tracks. Assistant Chief Kromas said the Firehouse Inspector Program is working very well for the Fire Marshal's Office. Fire Marshal Renstrom said they are going to have the ability to do everything in the field with their iPads now that the Fire Inspector Module is loaded into those. The inspection reports will be able to be e-mailed to facilities after their inspections are done, etc. Vacant buildings will be able to be tracked. They will have history information for the buildings. This is a good tool. Assistant Chief Kromas said they are also looking at putting the full Firehouse web program into the iPads so that the firefighters will be able to do their reports right on the scene. Russ Ford, John Nowakowski and Wally Cone (IT) are all working very hard. Councilor Drapeau asked if the RHFD is getting enough service and Chairwoman Bell asked if they are getting everything they need. Assistant Chief Kromas said definitely and they are working on it together.

B. Ambulance

Chief Grayeb said there were 318 calls in November and the year-to-date total is 3,186. There were 1,791 riding hours and 125 standby hours. There were 360 administrative hours. A new tracking program has been instituted over the last couple of years in order to help track the hours. Right now, they have over 33,900+ hours between administrative hours and riding the ambulance. He thanked the RHVAA members for their time and devotion. They have been doing a great job in serving the Town and they make his job so much easier. Councilor Drapeau asked Chief Grayeb if he had their names and he said there are 70 of them. Chief Grayeb said the RHVAA just gained 2 new members so they are doing great with regards to their membership status.

The RHVAA did a Food Drive during the two weekends prior to Thanksgiving to help replenish the Food Bank. Almost \$2,000 in cash was collected and well over 4,000 non-perishable food items. The Rocky Hill people were very generous.

Three CPR classes were taught to McKesson Drug and to Nutmeg Federal Credit Union. First Aid classes and CPR classes are continuing to be taught to the public by the RHVAA on a monthly basis.

Councilor Drapeau asked if the 3,186 calls were all for the RHVAA. Chief Grayeb said this is combined between Aetna Ambulance and the RHVAA. Councilor Drapeau asked how many were the RHVAA's. Chief Grayeb said 1,134 were.

Councilor Drapeau asked Chief Grayeb how the roof is at their building. Chief Grayeb said water is pouring in and the water is progressing from their dayroom into his office. Councilor Drapeau thinks funding was approved on December 1, 2014 to get that roof fixed and he asked if there was any word as to when this is going to happen. Town Manager Scaife said this was the first he was hearing about this problem and that something had already been done at that building. Fire Marshal Renstrom said the roof replacement is scheduled for next week and Assistant Chief Kromas said it has been identified as to what wires, as well as antennas, can be removed on that roof. Chairwoman Bell confirmed that this replacement will be for both the

RHFD side and the RHVAA side. Fire Marshal Renstrom said this will be for the whole lower roof that is on the front of that building.

C. Police

Chief Custer said there were 2,034 calls for service in November that went through RHPD's Dispatch Center. There were 56 criminal arrests and 51 motor vehicle accidents were investigated. One hundred and nine infractions were issued and there were 217 warnings. There were also 56 Town tickets issued. There were 302 training hours. Staffing hasn't changed. They are still down people but they are in the process of filling the vacancies. One Officer has come back from maternity leave and another Officer has been placed on maternity light duty.

There was a fire call at 60 West Street in November that was deemed to be a false alarm. There were no RHPD or RHVAA responses there. There are presently 50 patients there.

The Microwave project has been going smoothly. Equipment has been installed at three of the five sites that are being upgraded. There is a backorder on the parts for the other two sites and the delivery for those is being expected for the last week in December. Chief Custer is hoping to have this up and running now by February 1, 2015 instead of January 1, 2015 because of the backorder situation.

There have been increased patrols at retail establishments in Rocky Hill due to the holidays. There will probably be a DUI checkpoint this month as well.

The RHPD and the RHFD had participated in a Stuff A Truck event this past weekend at three sites and that had gone quite well. Chief Custer wanted to acknowledge the Staff that had participated in that.

VI. OTHER

Chairwoman Bell asked if there were any other issues to come before this Committee and there were none.

Chairwoman Bell said that she and her fellow Councilors would like to thank the RHPD, the RHFD and the RHVAA because they are out there on the road during the holidays when everyone else is enjoying them. On behalf of the residents in Rocky Hill, Chairwoman Bell said they sincerely appreciate everything that is done.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Drapeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary